

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 120

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Judge Don R. Ash for his meritorious service to Tennessee's judiciary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those exemplary jurists who have distinguished themselves among their fellow members of the bench and the bar alike; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy jurist is Judge Don R. Ash, who sagaciously served the 16th Judicial District Court, which includes Rutherford and Cannon counties, from 1994 until 2012; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his regular docket, he was the presiding judge of the 16th Judicial District Drug Court and DUI Court; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, he was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to be one of the four Senior Judges in the state; and

WHEREAS, a legal scholar of Renaissance talents, Judge Ash has authored over thirty appellate opinions while sitting as a Substitute Judge for the Tennessee Court of Appeals, and he has taught Civil Procedure at the Nashville School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ash is also the author of "A Bridge over Troubled Water: Changing the Custody Law in Tennessee," *University of Memphis Law Review*, and *Children of Divorce: A Practical Guide for Parents, Therapists, Attorneys, and Judges*; and

WHEREAS, he is a past president of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, and in 1998, Judge Ash was appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, which oversees judicial conduct for all Tennessee judges, and served as its presiding judge from 2007 through 2011; and

WHEREAS, he is an alumnus of the National Judicial College and joined its faculty in 2001; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and honors, Judge Ash has received numerous awards, including the Leadership Rutherford/Chamber of Commerce Pinnacle Award for Outstanding Community Service, the Distinguished Service To Families Award from the Tennessee Association For Marriage and Family Therapy, and the Rutherford County Community Service Award - Lifetime Achievement; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, he was designated as a Distinguished Alumnus of Middle Tennessee State University and was recently inducted into the Tennessee Boys and Girls Club Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Judge Ash received his bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, his law degree from the University of Memphis, and a Master of Judicial Studies degree from the University of Nevada, Reno; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of twenty-five years, Rita; their four children, Julia, Taylor, Hugh, and Joy; and three grandchildren, Harper, Hayes, and Quinn; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Judge Don R. Ash for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and her citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Judge Don R. Ash for his longstanding commitment to justice and equality under the law with the 16th Judicial District Court and beyond and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success as a Senior Judge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.